

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

MAY 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Workers return to seasonal jobs - Per capita income increases in area

Unemployment rates tumbled in all ten counties of Northwest Wisconsin in April. Estimates released by the Department of Workforce Development show an unemployment rate in Northwest Wisconsin of 7.8 percent in April 2003. While still significantly higher than the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate of 5.8 percent, the decline of 1.1 percentage point from March was much greater than the drop statewide.

One of the primary reasons for the large reduction and the lower rate in the northwest is that seasonal workers, who comprise a greater share of the workforce in the area and were laid off during the winter months, returned to work in May.

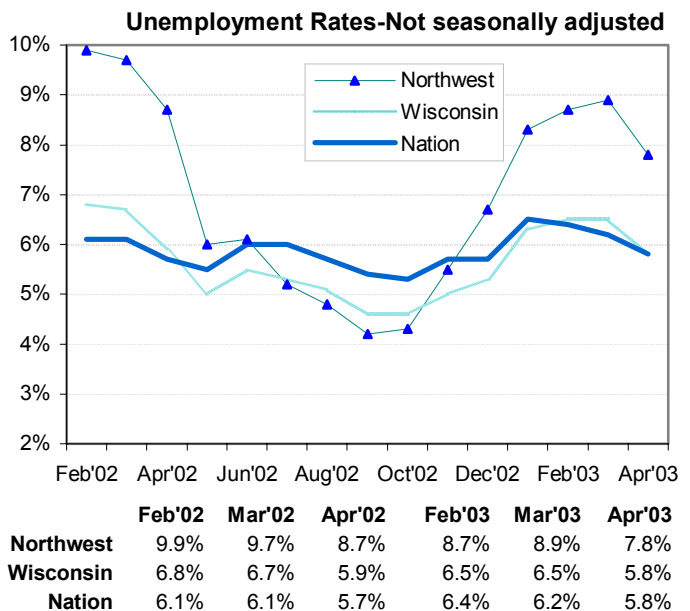
The number of unemployed in the region declined from 8,500 in April to 7,450 in May. The reduction was similar to the decline in unemployment one year ago and includes the hundreds of workers returning to jobs in construction, landscaping, forestry, sales, and services. A much larger recall occurs in May and we can anticipate an even greater drop in the area unemployment rate next month.

Unemployment declined in all northwest counties except Iron County. There the end of winter tourism jobs added to the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate increased from 10.6 percent in March to 12.8 percent in April. That was the largest increase and produced the highest rate in the state. Rusk County, on the other hand, had the greatest decline in unemployment rate in the state from 11.1 percent in March to 8.4 percent in April.

The unemployment rates in Iron and Rusk counties, as well as 45 of the 72 counties in the state, were less than one year ago. Rates tumbled as many industry sectors added jobs even though a few remain notably weak. In Northwest Wisconsin employers in all industry sectors except manufacturing and trade reported more jobs over last year.

There were 12,700 manufacturing jobs in the ten-county region in April 2003, roughly 100 less than one year earlier. The number of jobs in trade is also down 100 from last April's count of 10,400. The number of trade jobs, however, did increase from March to April, whereas manufacturing jobs declined.

Overall, jobs with regional employers increased by 1,100 to 72,900 in April. As jobs increased the number of residents filing claims for unemployment compensation benefits declined. The total number of claims is now lower than one year ago and has been lower for the last six weeks. For the week ending May 10 (the last available) there were 3,285 residents filing claims for benefits. That was 620 less than for the same week in 2002.



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin counties: Current month - April, 2003

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Civilian labor force	8,613	8,668	8,311	7,812	7,833	7,441	8,179	8,101	7,652	23,195	23,494	23,041	3,267	3,440	3,330
Employed	7,790	7,758	7,321	7,123	7,093	6,693	7,679	7,504	7,043	21,743	21,869	21,351	2,850	3,075	2,897
Unemployed	823	910	990	689	740	748	500	597	609	1,452	1,625	1,690	417	365	433
% unemployed	9.6	10.5	11.9	8.8	9.4	10.1	6.1	7.4	8.0	6.3	6.9	7.3	12.8	10.6	13.0

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Civilian labor force	7,499	7,527	7,055	7,369	7,523	7,270	10,174	10,141	10,174	11,119	11,146	10,704	8,262	8,186	8,131
Employed	6,940	6,927	6,496	6,750	6,685	6,572	9,361	9,200	9,366	10,178	10,027	9,864	7,630	7,405	7,388
Unemployed	559	600	559	619	838	698	813	941	808	941	1,119	840	632	781	743
% unemployed	7.5	8.0	7.9	8.4	11.1	9.6	8.0	9.3	7.9	8.5	10.0	7.8	7.6	9.5	9.1

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates: Current month - April 2003

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Total Nonfarm	8.9	8.7	8.6	3.9	3.8	3.6	5.2	5.0	4.9	18.4	18.2	17.5	2.1	2.3	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Trade	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.3	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	0.3	0.4	0.3
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.4	3.3	2.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Total Nonfarm	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.7	6.5	6.8	9.0	8.8	8.8	6.1	5.8	6.0
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.7	2.6	2.8	1.1	1.1	1.1
Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.8	0.9
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total Government	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.5

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2002 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

New per capita personal income estimates

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis released new per capita personal income (PCPI) estimates for 2001 in early May. Total personal income in the combined region of Northwest Wisconsin rose 3.5 percent from 2000 to 2001, better than the increase in the state of 3.4 percent and the nation of 3.3 percent.

Per capita personal income (total personal income divided by total population) rose 3.3 percent in the region compared with a 2.8 percent increase in the state and 2.2 percent increase in the nation.

The largest component of personal income is net earnings, which includes an adjustment for earnings of workers who receive wages from employers in other counties. The largest adjustment in the 10-county region is in Bayfield County and is the result of workers travelling to other counties, especially Ashland County, for jobs. Transfer payments, which includes social security and retirement benefits, is also more significant in the northwest area than in the state. Transfer payments comprised 22 percent of personal income in the northwest area in 2001 compared with roughly 13 percent in both the state and the nation.

Local Area Personal Income

2001 Personal Income	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn	Northwest
Personal income	\$376,403	\$336,506	\$327,664	\$1,017,742	\$149,229	\$349,867	\$305,896	\$376,024	\$406,520	\$343,508	\$3,989,359
Population (persons)	16,783	15,135	15,887	43,560	6,803	15,562	15,307	16,361	19,691	16,274	181,363
Per capita personal income	\$22,428	\$22,234	\$20,625	\$23,364	\$21,936	\$22,482	\$19,984	\$22,983	\$20,645	\$21,108	\$21,997
Earnings by place of work	\$289,900	\$128,173	\$153,644	\$605,553	\$74,519	\$206,619	\$187,199	\$211,697	\$280,107	\$172,876	\$2,310,287
Adjustment for residence	-\$55,890	\$70,118	\$24,030	\$72,666	\$6,805	\$685	-\$1,702	-\$1,356	-\$5,903	\$9,175	NA
Net earnings by residence	\$216,356	\$190,689	\$168,117	\$638,442	\$76,189	\$193,331	\$173,835	\$197,757	\$255,178	\$170,641	\$2,280,535
Dividends, interest, and rent	\$75,796	\$74,614	\$81,818	\$173,013	\$35,999	\$77,124	\$58,488	\$96,661	\$77,744	\$80,663	\$831,920
Transfer payments	\$84,251	\$71,203	\$77,729	\$206,287	\$37,041	\$79,412	\$73,573	\$81,606	\$73,598	\$92,204	\$876,904
Wage and salary disburs.	\$228,792	\$79,809	\$108,422	\$495,636	\$52,754	\$168,137	\$148,108	\$160,967	\$232,545	\$140,884	\$1,816,054
Other labor income	\$31,060	\$13,902	\$15,443	\$59,564	\$6,684	\$21,712	\$19,904	\$22,622	\$28,451	\$19,476	\$238,818
Proprietors' income	\$30,048	\$34,462	\$29,779	\$50,353	\$15,081	\$16,770	\$19,187	\$28,108	\$19,111	\$12,516	\$255,415

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System. <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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